

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A composition of matter adapted to release an active ingredient over a period of time at a linear rate comprising an active ingredient contained within a water-soluble or erodible polymeric matrix, said active ingredient/polymeric matrix mixture being dispersed within open cell or reticulated hydrophilic polyurethane.

2. A composition of matter adapted to release an active ingredient over a period of time at a linear rate comprising an active ingredient contained within a water-soluble or erodible polymeric matrix, said active ingredient/polymeric matrix mixture being dispersed within a composite comprising an open cell hydrophobic polyurethane foam, said hydrophobic foam having a plurality of surfaces defining a plurality of pores and having a coating of a substantially open cell hydrophilic polyurethane foam disposed upon said plurality of surfaces of the pores of said hydrophobic polyurethane foam.

3. A composition of matter as recited in Claim 1 further containing an indicator molecule in said hydrophilic polyurethane.

4. A composition of matter as recited in Claim 2 further containing an indicator molecule in the open cell polyurethane composite.